

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 1 No. 1

November 1953

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year's Christmas Count will be the 54th conducted by the National Audubon Society. Since the first count in 1900, when about two dozen people reported their counts to "Bird Lore," counts reported have increased to 456, in 1952, with nearly 6000 observers both professionals and amateurs; all 48 States, Alaska, the District of Columbia and 4 Canadian Provinces were represented. This year it is expected that even more birders will spend most of their waking hours in the field counting birds during one day of the period Dec. 25 through Jan. 3. The results are published by the National Audubon Society, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the April issue of the Audubon Field Notes (subscription \$2.00 per year; includes the Christmas Count and 5 other issues). Briefly stated, the rules for the Count require that a reported area must be within a circle not greater than fifteen miles in diameter and that the Count include only one calendar day within the period specified above.

Two Christmas Counts are planned for the Club, to be made in the same areas as those of the past two years. One, which we call the "Denver" or "low-altitude" count is to be made in the plains and foothills immediately west of Denver on Saturday, December 26. The other, the "Idaho Springs" or "high-altitude" count, is to be in the mountains immediately west of Idaho Springs, on Saturday, January 2. With too severe weather on the scheduled days, either count may be postponed until the following day.

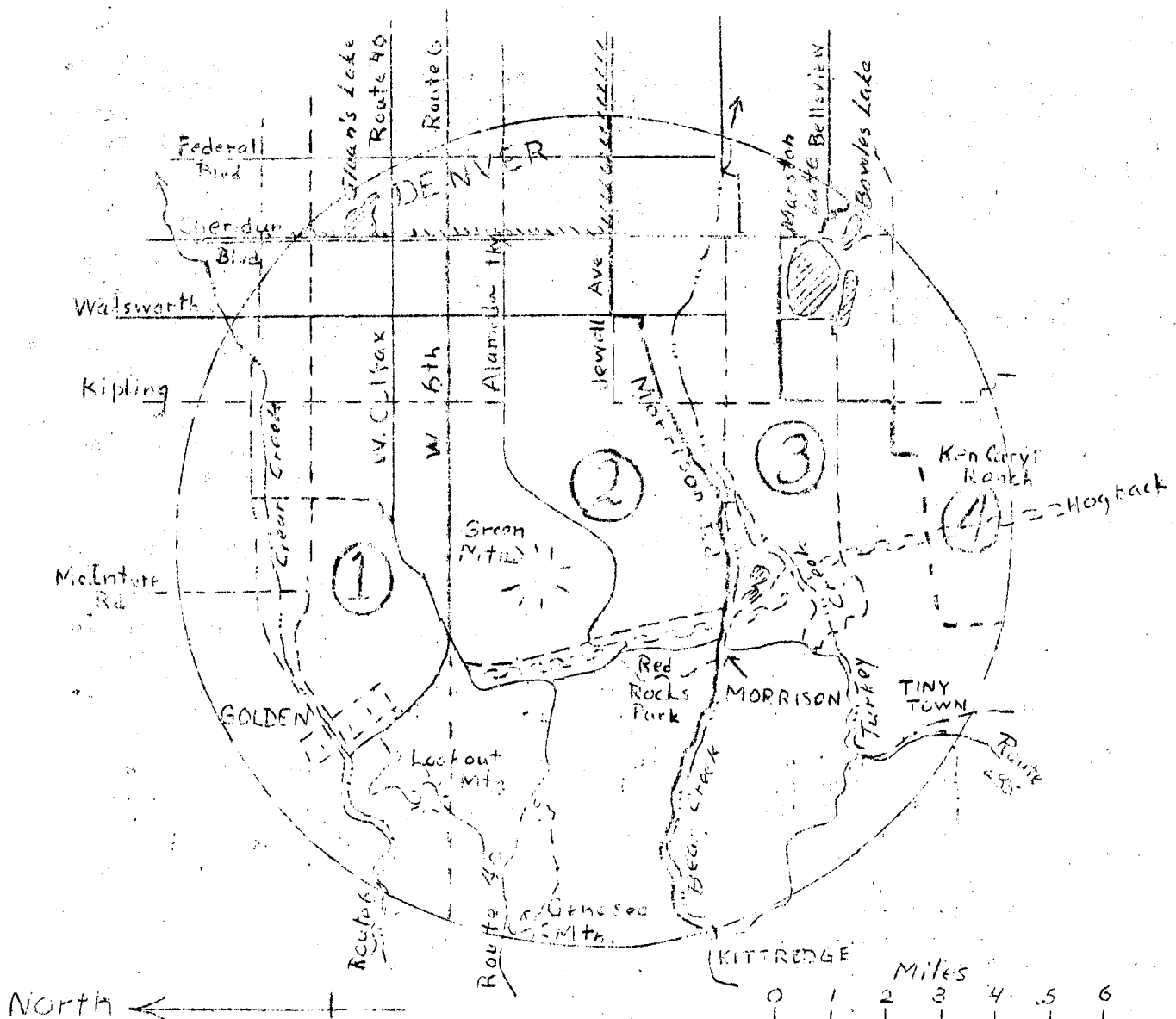
There was considerable competition among some areas for high numbers of species, principally between southern California and southern Texas. Last year Los Angeles and San Benito, Texas were tied, each with 151 species. Northern or inland places cannot hope to compete with those places but can compete with areas having conditions similar to their own. (Last year our Denver species count was fifth of those from non-coastal States.) Other competition is to report the most individuals of single species. Our 1952 Denver count was highest for six species: Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, American Magpie, Canyon Wren, Townsend's Solitaire and Cassin's Finch. The Idaho Springs Count was highest for four species: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker and Mountain Chickadee. The Three-toed Woodpecker was the only one reported that year and the White-tailed Ptarmigan were the first ever reported in the 53 years of Christmas Counts. Colorado Springs (The Aiken Ornithological Society) was highest for Steller's Jay and Gray-headed Junco.

The territory covered by the low-altitude count lies within a 15-mile circle having its center on the southeast slope of Green Mountain at Alameda Parkway and includes a variety of habitats in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. Included in the outer part of the area are Sloan's, Marston and Bowles Lakes, Tiny Town, Indian Hills, Genesee and Lookout Mountains, Golden and Wheatridge. Inasmuch as analysis of previous Christmas Count reports shows a close correlation between the number of species observed and the number of party-hours spent in the field, it is planned to divide the counters into as many parties as possible, consistent with good birding, with, however, for personal safety, no fewer than two in each party. (Los Angeles last year had 93 observers in 47 parties, for its high count.) For as complete coverage as possible, the circle has been divided into three large sections of 50 square miles or more and a smaller one of about 17 square miles as shown on the accompanying map.

MAP for LOW-ALTITUDE CHRISTMAS COUNT

Area

1. All north of 6th Avenue and its extension west
2. Between 6th Ave. and its extension on the north and Jewell Ave., Morrison Road and Bear Creek on the south
3. All south of Jewell Ave., Morrison Road and Bear Creek except Area 4
4. Marston and Bowles Lakes, Ken Caryl Ranch and south of route between the two,



As most of the rare or out-of-season birds reported on Christmas Counts are those located previous to the count, each area should be scouted several times before the count day. With this in mind, general scouting trips are scheduled for Saturdays in the four areas, as listed below, when all parties will cover one area, in lieu of other scheduled field trips. It is suggested that the Sundays following and the weekend of December 19 - 20 be used for scouting by each party in its own area.

The following table lists the areas, leaders, scouting dates and suggested composition of the parties. Names listed are those of last year's participants and others who have expressed definite interest in this year's count. All other members or friends are invited and urged to attend scouting trips or the count itself, or both. Any who may feel that they are lacking in proficiency can often be very useful as note-keepers, sky-watchers (for hawks, etc.) or chauffeurs and are most welcome. So, choose the one or two areas that you prefer and call the proper leader for details.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Parties</u>	<u>Gen'l Scouting Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>
1	Robert Glover - Arthur Bennett Ferd Kleinschnitz - James Humphrey Ruth Wheeler - Mrs. Crow	Dec. 5 Meet Sheridan and Colfax 1:00 P.M.	Robert Glover
2	Don Thatcher - Thompson Marsh Sadie Morrison - Alma Kirkeby Mr. & Mrs. Bonnema - Buryl Cummins - Judith Zucker	Nov. 28 Same as above	Don Thatcher
3	John Chapin - Donald McLean Dr. & Mrs. Massonneau Mr. & Mrs. DeMent	Nov. 21 Same as above	John Chapin
4	John Flavin - James Jetensky Harold Webster	Dec. 12 Same as above	John Flavin

ALL members and friends of the Club are invited to the Chapin home on Parker Road on the afternoon of the Christmas Count for a Get-together, with pot-luck supper and tally of the count after the after-dark arrival of the counters. The parties are urged to NOT divulge their rarities until the tally, when each party will report its count as a master list (compiled from the lists of the past two years) is read. Pot-luck donations will be welcomed by the supper committee: Mesdames Chapin, Flavin, Kleinschnitz and Thatcher.

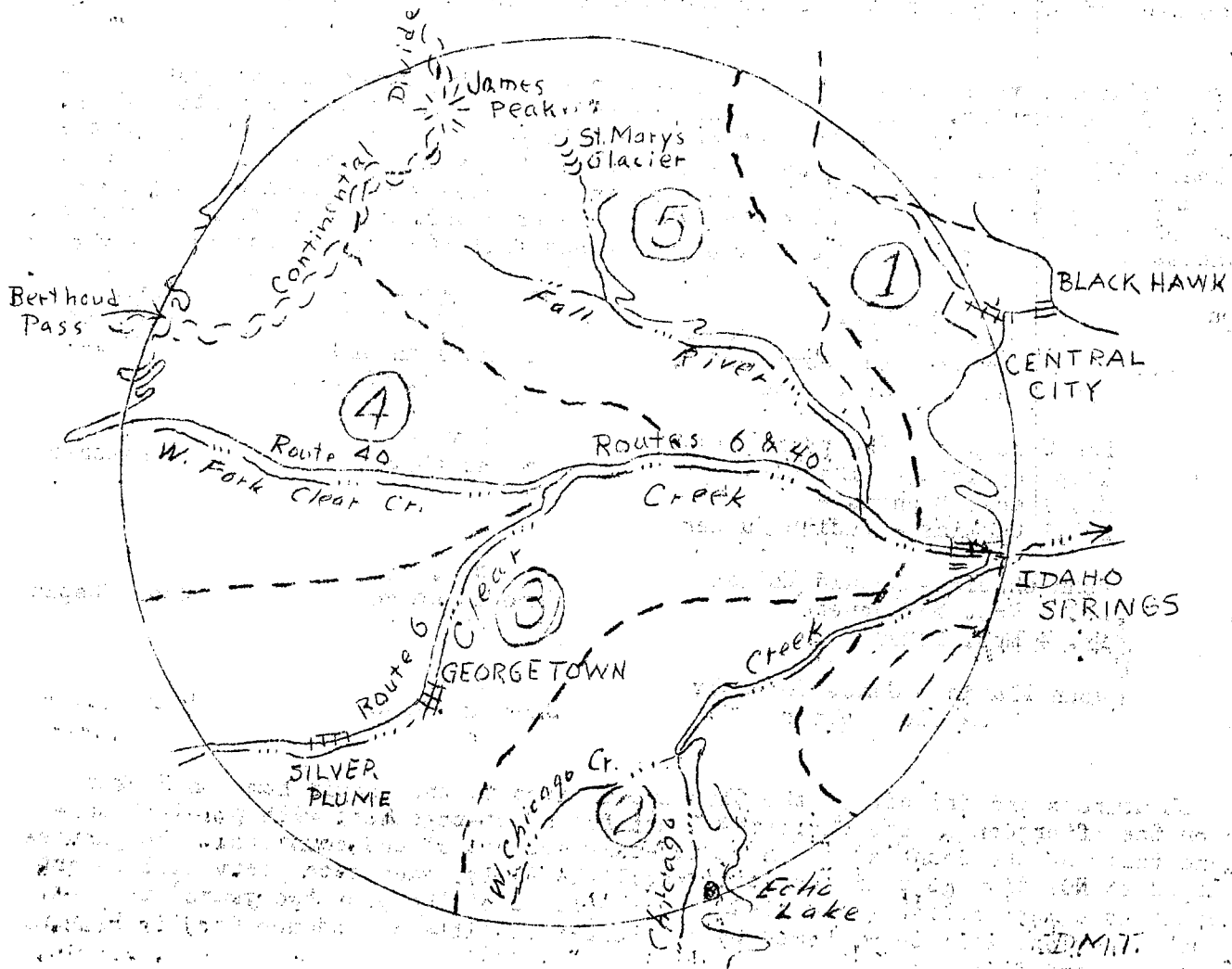
The high-altitude count is to be made within a 15-mile circle centered at the junction of Routes U S. 6 and 40, west of Idaho Springs. The territory includes mostly Canadian life zone forest with considerable areas of the Hudsonian and Alpine zones. Idaho Springs, part of Central City, Echo Lake, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Berthoud Pass, and St. Mary's Glacier are within the circle. It is planned to cover five different sections, if there are enough participants:

1. Idaho Springs and roads north and south, also the west part of Central City
2. Chicago Creek and Echo Lake
3. Georgetown - Silver Plume and vicinity (Route 6 west of the junction)
4. Berthoud Pass and vicinity (Route 40 west of the junction)
5. Fall River Road and St. Mary's Glacier

Anyone interested in this count on January 2 should call or write John Chapin, John Flavin or Don Thatcher.

Those having feeding stations or yards can participate in either count at home by keeping tally of the birds they see during the days of the field counts. Anyone wishing to do this should call the leader if possible before the day of the count.

MAP for HIGH-ALTITUDE CHRISTMAS COUNT



Starting with the next issue of the Notes, we plan to include a summary of bird observations for the past month or two. All notes on your observations of unusual species or numbers, any dates of migration, nesting or other activities of any species will be appreciated. If the cat brings home a Kentucky Warbler or a Whip-poor-will, let us know about it. Dates and places are very important.

Why not send in a description of your favorite birding place, your yard or garden, the park, or whatever it is and a list of the birds you have seen there? What birds use your feeder and what food is preferred by each?

The Editors

Durfee, Miss Bertha - 233 So. Ogden Street (9).....RA 6901

Edmiston, Miss Mary K. - 1355 St. Paul Street (6).....EA 5233

Flavin, Mr. John W., Jr. - 1315 So. Holly (20).....Plaza 5-1744

Force, Miss Jessie - 717 Humboldt Street (18).....MA 0531

Frazee, Mrs. Flora M. - 1115 So. High Street ().....

Friedrichs, Mr. Otto - Box 165, Rte. 2, Golden, Colorado

Gallup, Miss Ruth - 935 Lincoln Street, Apt. 7 (3).....CH 2059

Glover, Mr. Robert E. - 1936 So. Lincoln Street (10).....PE 8757

Hansen, Mr. Charles F. - 701 So. Grant Street (9).....RA 8736

Hansen, Mrs. C. W. - Box, 67, Fort Morgan, Colorado

Hellstern, Mr. Edward (Life Member) Fort Morgan, Colorado

Herrick, Mrs. Beulah - 1466 Columbine Street (6).....FR 1414

Humphrey, Mr. James - 3495 W. 30th Avenue (11).....GR 3800

Humphrey, Mrs. Ruth - 3495 W. 30th Avenue (11).....GR 3800

Hunt, Mrs. Clyde T. - 121 W. 1st. Avenue, Apt. 4 (19).....SH 0924

Hurlbutt, Miss Catherine - 1910 So. Marion Street (10).....SP 9362

Jameson, Miss Dolores - 8200 West 10th Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado.....BE 3-4934

Jetensky, Mr. James - 105 W. Irvington (9).....RA 6987

Jeurgens, Mr. David - 1928 E. 17th Avenue (6).....FL 7468

Judson, Mr. Arch - 729 E. 14th Avenue ().....MA 6302

Kirkeby, Miss Alma - 1660 Gaylord Street (6).....FL 4946

Kleinschnitz, Mr. & Mrs. Ferd - 1630 So. Milwaukee Street (10).....RA 9041

Lederer, Mrs. Beth - 525 College Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

Licht, Mr. E. L. - 2329 Glencoe Street (7).....DE 2837

Link, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell A. - 4409 So. Bannock Street.....SU 1-0140

Looms, Mrs. Laura - 771 Franklin Street (3).....FR 1445

Lort, Miss Martha W. - 725 So. High Street (9).....PE 4481

Marx, Miss Katherine - 800 So. Emerson Street (9).....PE 4186

Marye, Mrs. J. W. - 1810 Albion Street (7).....DE 2583

1953 MEMBERS COLORADO BIRD CLUB 1954
As of November 1, 1953

Aamodt, Mr. Harry - 1500 W. Alaska Place (19).....SP 9048
Aamodt, Mrs. O. H. - 1500 W. Alaska Place (19).....SP 9048
Abbott, Mrs. David - 361 Ash Street (20).....DE 4159
Anderson, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown, Colorado
Arnold, Rev. Jay - Berthoud, Colorado
Asbury, Mr. Ralph - 340 Cherokee Street (9).....SP 2012
Bailey, Mr. Alfred M. (Life Member) 4340 Montview Blvd. ().....EA 8913
Denver Museum of Natural History.....EA 1808
Bennett, Mr. Arthur J. - 875 Dexter - Apt. 201 (20).....EA 9560
Bonnema, Mr. and Mrs. Peter - 1368 So. Corona Street (10).....PE 6755
Bouslog, Dr. and Mrs. John S. - 6210 E. 17th Avenue (7).....FR 1920
Bowman, Mr. Donald E. - 1109 So. Washington Street (10).....PE 6345
Boyce, Mrs. William S. - 721 Gilpin Street (18).....EA 1317
Breneman, Mr. Herbert N. - 1808 Gaylord Street (6).....DE 0774
Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. - 3837 Zenobia Street (12).....GR 4887
Byrne, Mrs. Helen - 726 So. York Street (9).....SP 2951
Cann, Mr. R. H. - 1235 Jasmine Street (7).....FR 4352
Carlsen, Mr. Henry - 4727 Brighton Blvd. (16).....
Caswell, Miss Phyllis - 1336 So. Grant Street (10).....PE 7451
Chambers, Mrs. Donald E. - Broomfield, Rte. 1, Box 290.....Broomfield 24J4
Chapin, Mr. John L. - Box 72A, Rte. 2, Denver (20).....Plaza 5-0862
Close, Mr. R. E. - Rts. 3, Box 490, Golden, Colorado
Corning, Mrs. Barbara - Yarmouth, Maine
Crow, Mrs. A. H. - 3272 Stuart Street (12).....GL 4378
Cummins, Mr. Buryl - 2355 King Street (11).....GE 3787
DeMent, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. - 3653 Josephine (5).....AC 5003
Dodge, Miss J. Elizabeth - 4911 Green Court (11).....GL 0087
Douglas, Mr. John - 948 University Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

Massonneau, Major and Mrs. Robert - Fitzsimons Army Hospital
Officers Mail SectionAurora 2055W

Matthews, Mrs. Vera - 735 College Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

Mattoon, Miss Margaret - 1067 13th Street, Boulder, Colorado

McLean, Mr. Donald - 1629 Kearney Street.....FR 4919

Miller, Miss Margaret - 4425 Federal Blvd., Apt. 104 (11).....GE 0454

Morrison, Miss Sadie - 1265 Mariposa Street (4).....MA 0840

Niedrach, Mr. Robert J. (Life Member) Box 116A, Rte. 3
Littleton, Colorado.....SU 1-3027

Olson, Mr. Ray - 8651 W. 38th Avenue, Wheatridge, Colo.....Harrison 4-6823

Patton, Miss Priscilla - 8435 W. 10th Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado.....BE 3-9536

Pauldino, Mr. Anthony - 795 Oneida Street (20).....DE 6613

Pfretzschnier, Mr. B.R. - 2700 Adams Street (5).....DE 3234

Phelan, Miss Bess - 914 E. 13th Avenue

Pollock, Mrs. Tom - 1935 Jasmine Street (7).....FR 2152 —

Pritchett, Miss Margaret - 2735 Federal Blvd. (11).....GL 2863

Putnam, Mr. Jack - 3600 Niagara Street (7).....DE 2061

Ranson, Miss Maud B. - Portland 7, Oregon, Box 557

Reifschneider, Mrs. Jacob - P. O. Box 773, Yucaipa, California

Roark, Mr. Robert - 3136 Eliot Street (11).....GL 3798

Robinson, Mrs. Stella - 4911 Green Court (11).....GL 0087

Rollin, Mr. Howard (Life Member) - Rte. 1, Weldona, Colorado

Rosenbaum, Mrs. Virgil C. - 2825 W. 29th Avenue (11).....GL 7600

Scudder, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown, Colorado

Smith, Mr. Horace G. (Dad) (Life Member) - 1457 St. Paul (6).....EA 1642

Stockwell, Miss Ida - 1221 Washington Street, Apt. 304 ()

Storrie, Miss Robina - 443 So. Corona Street (9).....PE 0809

Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. - 4008 Quitman Street (12).....GR 7131

Thatcher, Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. - 2916 Perry Street (12).....GL 7479

Tyler, Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. - 1600 Teller Street, Lakewood, Colo.....BE 3-2033

Voris, Mrs. C. D. - 1085 Olive Street (20).....EA 7256
Wangnild, Miss Lillian - 1062 So. Elizabeth Street (9).....SH 1622
Webster, Mr. Harold M. Jr. - 7810 W 46th Avenue, Wheatridge, Colo., Harrison 4-1945
Wheeler, Miss Ruth - 3340 W. 37th Avenue (11).....GL 3924
Winters, Miss Eileen - Capitol Hill Station, Box 134 (6).....AL 2513
Woodward, Mrs. Ruth - 5009 Elm Court (11).....GR 4362
Zucker, Miss Judith - 469 So. Broadway (9).....

Please notify us of any errors, omissions or changes, which will
then be corrected in our next issue.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to the CASTLEWOOD DAM area, led by Ferd Kleinschnitz, October 10, was attended by seven members. Forty-two species were seen, including five of hawks and a Golden Eagle. Unusual small birds were: Eastern Bluebird (5), White-throated Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sage Thrasher. Both the common and Gambel's white-crowned Sparrow were found.

Nine members attended the trip the afternoon of October 18 to CLEAR CREEK, east of Golden, led by Robert Glover. The clear, unusually warm weather produced only a few individuals of twenty species, of which the Myrtle Warbler was the only unusual one.

The October 25 trip to RED ROCKS PARK and MARSTON LAKE and vicinity, with John Chapin as leader, was attended by twelve people, including Mr. Guy Emerson, a Director and former Treasurer of the National Audubon Society. At Red Rocks, 16 species of birds were seen, including a White-throated Sparrow. A stop at Turkey and Little Turkey Creeks at the Hogback produced one small rattlesnake and 25 species of birds, including another White-throat, a Horned Owl, a Red-tail Hawk and a Marsh Hawk. Thirty-five species were seen at Marston Lake. The find of the day was a Parasitic Jaeger, an adult which was well observed by the entire party as it chased the gulls, including a Bonaparte's, and preened on the water. This is the first record of this species in the Denver area, according to Niedrach and Rockwell, since one reported by H. G. Smith at Sloan's Lake in 1889. Other unusual species were a Common Loon, an Osprey, a Bufflehead and a Western Grebe. Of the eleven species of ducks, Mallards and Pintails were the most abundant, and were nearly equalled in numbers by Franklin's Gull and the American Coot. Hawks seen here were a Roughlegged Hawk, a Prairie Falcon and the Osprey. The total species count for the day was 61. D. M. T.

FIELD TRIP LEADERS are requested again to please furnish immediately after each trip a report including people attending, list and number of species and any unusual observations.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

November

- 21 (Sat.) 1 P. M. Christmas Count Scouting Trip - Area 3. John Chapin, leader
Meet at W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. PL 5-0862
- *22 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 P.M. Lecture, "American Panorama" by Winifred Walker
Denver Museum of Natural History - Phipps Auditorium
- *23 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 P.M. Same as above.
- 24 (Tues.) 7 P.M. "Identification of Birds" - John Flavin, leader.
Denver Museum of Natural History, Bird Room.
- 24 (Tues.) 8 P.M. Monthly Meeting of Bird Club. Denver Museum of Natural History,
Bird Room. "Wild Birds as Pets" by John Flavin

NOTICE: We have been requested to use the north(employees')
entrance of the Museum, as lighting the main entrance
attracts numerous visitors after the closing hour.

- *29 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 P.M. Lecture, "Safari in Africa" by Murl Deussing
Denver Museum of Natural History - Phipps Auditorium
- *30 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 P.M. Same as above.

December

- 5 (Sat.) 1 P.M. Christmas Count Scouting Trip - Area 1. Robert Glover, leader
Meet at W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. PE 8757
- *6 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 P.M. Lecture, "Columbia River Country" by Francis Line
Denver Museum of Natural History - Phipps Auditorium
- *7 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 P.M. Same as above.
- 12 (Sat.) 1 P.M. Christmas Count Scouting Trip - Area 4. John Flavin, leader
Meet at W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. PL 5-1744
- *13 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 P.M. Lecture, "Turkey" by Karl Robinson
Denver Museum of Natural History - Phipps Auditorium
- *14 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 P.M. Same as above.
- 19 (Sat.) Christmas Count Scouting Trips - Areas 1, 2, 3, 4
Call Area leaders for details.

* These lectures are not provided by The Bird Club. Balcony seats are free
to the public, also unclaimed main floor seats.